

**Draft Minutes from the Meeting of the
Asheville Riverfront Redevelopment Commission (ARRC)
July 8, 2010 5:30 pm
Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Board Room (2nd floor)**

Members attending: Joe Ferikes, Jan Davis, Ben Teague, Ricky Silver, Bill Stanley, Jane Mathews, Karl Koon, Pattiy Torno, Robert Camille, Robert Griffin, Miller Williams
Members absent: Jerry Sternberg, Denise Snodgrass
Asheville City Staff attending: Riverfront Coordinator Stephanie Monson, City Manager Gary Jackson, City Attorney Bob Oast, City Legal Intern Erin Durkin
Guest at the meeting (used sign in sheet): Scott Dedman, Marc Hunt, Gabe Quesinberry

Asheville City Councilman Jan Davis Opened the Meeting at 5:30 pm

The Commission welcomed new member S. Miller Williams, who was appointed by the Chamber of Commerce; introductions were made.

MINUTES

Councilman Davis asked the Commission to consider adoption of the draft minutes from their May 24 meeting; Ricky Silver made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded by Karl Koon and all voted in favor (passed)

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS/OLD BUSINESS

Elections

Councilman Davis thanked the nominating committee (Sternberg, Griffin, Mathews) for volunteering to create a ballot/slate of nominees for the ARRC's first annual election. Members filled out the ballot then signed it, and City Attorney Bob Oast tallied the results. Robert Camille was elected as Chairperson, and Ricky Silver elected as Vice Chairperson. Ballots are public record and will be on file with the City Clerk's office and the Office of Economic Development.

Creation of by-laws subcommittee

The following ARRC members agreed to work with City Attorney Bob Oast and other staff to develop by-laws that the ARRC would consider for adoption: Ricky Silver, Pattiy Torno, and Joe Ferikes.

Consideration of Annual Retreat

Based on their availability, ARRC members agreed to consider either Saturday August 28th or Saturday October 2nd as the date for their first annual retreat. The retreat will last at minimum from 9 am to 3 pm. The development of prioritized work areas for the ARRC will be on the retreat agenda, along with a bus tour and a presentation on effective board and commission operations. Monson will confirm the final date with the ARRC and announce as soon as possible.

New Business

Wilma Dykeman Preliminary Environmental and Engineering Study

ARRC members received a memo (on file at the Office of Economic Development) from staff providing a project update. Member Jane Mathews relayed her role as part of the

consultant team hired for the project. Project staff will come in September to provide another update.

Regional partnership for funding opportunities via HUD/DOT grants

ARRC members received a handout outlining opportunities and requirements for two significant federal funding notices of availability that will likely incorporate the Riverfront District as a focal area. Land of Sky COG will lead a regional consortium in an application for Regional Sustainability Planning Grants. The City of Asheville intends to apply for the Community Challenge Planning Grant. Members were supportive of the intended applications. In a motion by Ricky Silver, seconded by Jane Mathews, the ARRC via Chairperson Robert Camille resolved to work with staff on a letter of support for both applications. The motion passed unanimously.

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan Meeting

It was announced that the MPO will hold a public comment hearing on the draft project and priorities list on July 22nd at 12:30 pm. Comments can also be sent via email and snail mail. There are many riverfront district projects in the list, including the Wilma Dykeman Riverway project and the Passenger Rail project.

Long Shoals Bridge/future riverfront greenway consideration

Commission member Miller Williams reminded the Commission that he thinks the ARRC should address immediate areas of opportunity when possible. NCDOT is almost finished with a new bridge over the French Broad River at Long Shoals (NC 146) and there is a question over what will happen to the “old” bridge. Miller believes that an opportunity may exist to preserve the “old” bridge for a bicycle and pedestrian amenity. He noted that someday the greenway system will extend to that portion of the river and that RiverLink owns a parcel on the west side of the river next to the bridge. Staff confirmed that the demolition of the bridge was indeed part of the project contract. Commission member discussion consented around the idea that it would be good to preserve the “old “ bridge, and that there were many unknowns regarding how to move forward with such an initiative. City Manager Jackson agreed to do some discovery regarding the feasibility of such a plan/request and get back to the ARRC in as timely a manner as possible.

Consideration to Expand Commission Membership

Commission member Jan Davis, Asheville City Councilman, noted that he would like to introduce a discussion. Around the time the ARRC was created the River Study Group (appointing partners to the Commission) noted interest in expanding the ARRC membership to include more regional partners. Davis said that one regional partner having clearly expressed interest is the Town of Woodfin, and that he would like the ARRC members to consider Woodfin’s inclusion in the Commission. ARRC members agreed that it would be beneficial to include more regional partners. Davis agreed to call Mayor Jerry Vehaun to confirm Woodfin’s interest. A motion was made by Davis to ask City Council to amend the ARRC ordinance to include an appointee from the Town of Woodfin. The motion was seconded by Commission member Bill Stanley, Buncombe County Commissioner, and passed unanimously.

Commission Questions and Comments

- In response to a question regarding an I-26 connector update, staff replied they would request that Jay Swain from NCDOT come to provide an update on the process.
- Staff will work on a request to produce a list of major property owners in the Riverfront District
- Staff will work on a request that a list of roles and relationships be provided at the annual retreat regarding the myriad of agencies, individuals and organizations involved in riverfront district matters.
- Staff will work on a request to develop maps that illustrate property ownership, projects underway and key sub districts in the riverfront district

Public Comment

- Marc Hunt, Chairman of Asheville Greenway Commission: commended the Commission for wanting to become educated, and noted that his experience on the Greenway Commission suggests that having a series of presentations, perhaps one 15 minute presentation a month as a standing agenda item, proved helpful.

-Adjournment 6:54 pm

The next meeting of the Commission is August 12, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Board Room (2nd floor).

The Asheville Riverfront Redevelopment Commission was created to support the continued development and sustainability of the riverfront. This commission is a strategic partnership and includes appointees from the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, RiverLink, Council of Independent Business Owners, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, and the City's River District Design Review Committee. The Commission acts as an advisory board and provides policy recommendations to the City and strategic partners.

General information about the Commission, including a roster of members can be found at www.ashevillenc.gov. Hover over "Projects and Initiatives" on the left menu, click on "Riverfront Redevelopment".

For more information about the Commission, or if you wish to be considered as a presenter, please contact Stephanie Monson, Riverfront Redevelopment Coordinator at (828)232 4502 or by email at smonson@ashevillenc.gov